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## **McManus' land conservation tax incentive bill signed into law**

**LANSING** – Legislation sponsored by Sen. Michelle McManus to provide tax incentives for preserving land in conservation easements was signed today by the governor.

“I’m pleased to finally see this bill signed into law to help protect Michigan’s scenic open spaces,” said McManus, R-Lake Leelanau. “It allows families to pass down property they wish to preserve without their heirs being burdened with a huge tax bill. This is great for Michigan families and Michigan’s natural beauty.”

Senate Bill 1004 would amend the General Property Tax Act to say that a “conservational easement” does not constitute a transfer of property for tax purposes. This exception would not include any buildings or structures on the property, just the land itself. Buildings and structures would still be subject to the increase in taxes when a transfer of property occurs under Proposal A.

“This is a huge step forward for private land conservation in Michigan,” said Glen Chown, board vice president of the Heart of the Lakes Center for Land Conservation Policy and executive director of the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy. “It will help to permanently protect many thousands of acres of privately owned land in our state for future generations to enjoy.”

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Photos of the bill signing are available for download on the Senate Majority Photowire at <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/McManus/McManus.htm>